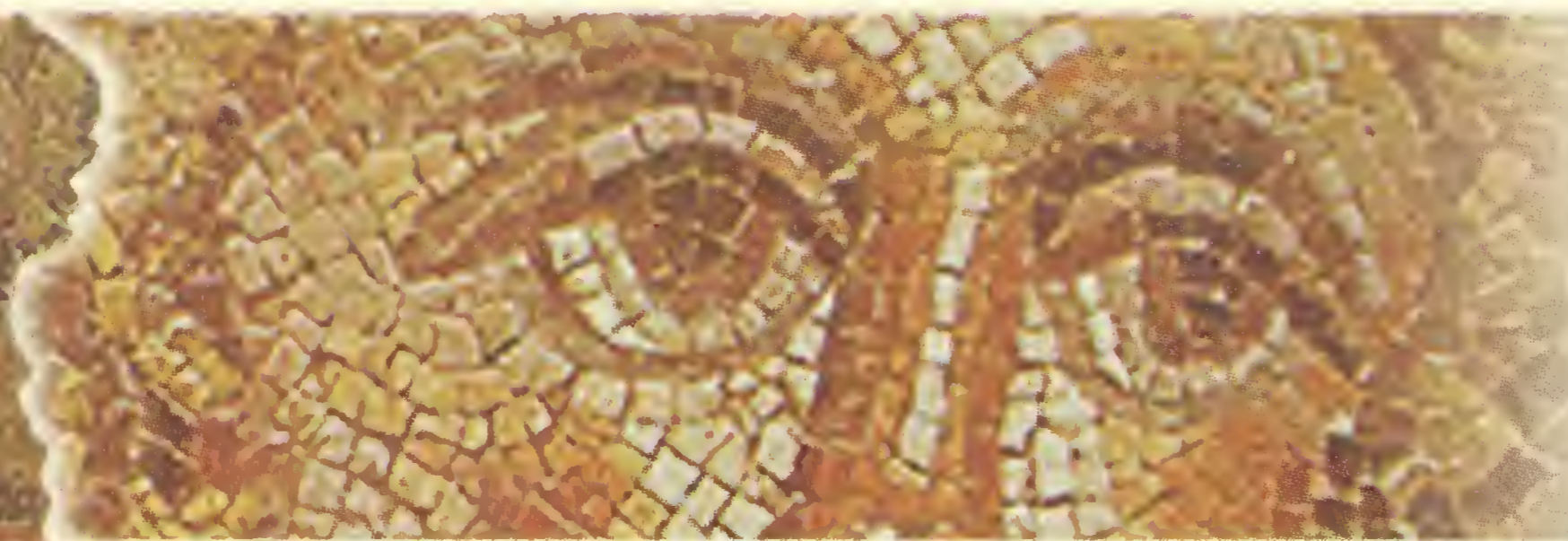
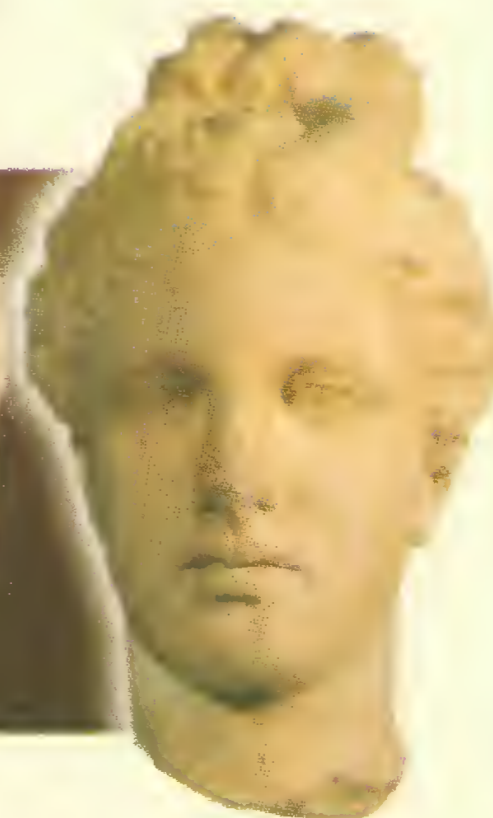


CYPRUS



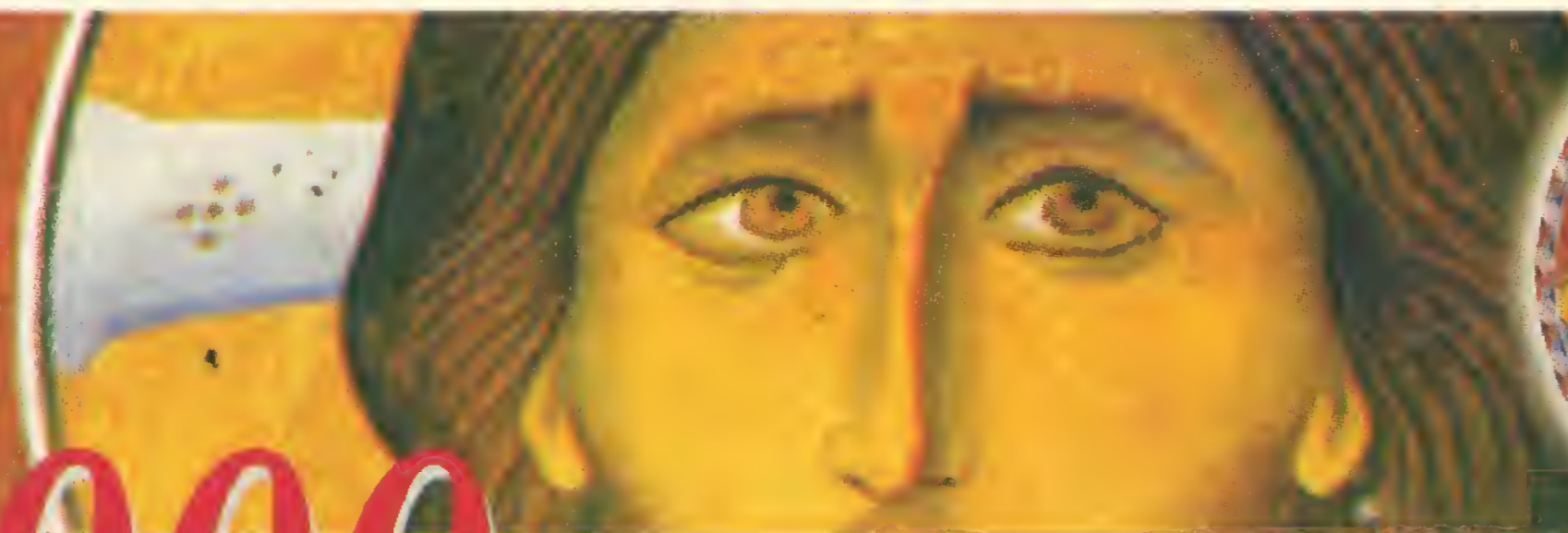
3000BC

100BC



350AD

1200AD



10000 years of history and civilization

I n t r o d u c t i o n

Cyperus, although a small country, has a rich cultural heritage which is evident from the vast number of ancient monuments and sites, castles and forts around the island. The purpose of this publication is to help you discover and appreciate our cultural treasures. Many of these are included in this booklet, however, it is beyond the scope of a publication of this size and nature to provide a detailed reference.

The antiquities of Pafos, the Neolithic Settlement of Choirokoitia, as well as nine Byzantine Churches from the Troodos region are included in the official World Cultural Heritage list, thereby endorsing their importance.

The personnel of the Information Offices of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation in Cyprus and abroad will be happy to help you plan your visits in the best possible way. The various publications and leaflets, available free of charge in our offices, contain a variety of useful information on Cyprus.

Unfortunately, since July 1974 a significant part of our cultural heritage is under Turkish occupation and as a result acquaintance with it is impossible. This heritage has been suffering deliberate and serious destruction, since the Turkish forces systematically aim at changing the demographic and cultural structure of occupied Cyprus.



C y p r u s

10000 YEARS OF HISTORY

The cultural heritage of a people is its most important asset, its identity and a sense of continuation through time. Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean and standing as it does at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa it has had a tumultuous history. The Mycenaeans Achaean brought their civilisation here, establishing the first Greek roots 3.000 years ago. Many others passed through, including Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Crusaders, Venetians, Ottomans and the British. The apostles of Christ walked this land. The splendour of Byzantium, founded by Constantine the Great at Constantinople, encompassed the island of Cyprus. Here are prehistoric settlements, ancient Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, Early Christian basilicas, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Crusader castles, Gothic churches and Venetian fortifications. In the villages, old customs and traditions are still kept alive. Young girls still engage in lace-making in the beautiful village of Lefkara just as their grandmothers did before them. Potters still create wondrous anthropomorphic shapes to decorate their earthenware vessels at picturesque Foini and the sound of hand-looms can still be heard in Fyti, home of attractive hand-woven materials, whilst, men in traditional baggy trousers, 'vraka', still congregate at the coffee shop for a game of backgammon.

In Cyprus the 21st century rubs shoulders with a civilisation 10000 years old. There are festivals whose origins stretch back into antiquity; like Carnival and Anthestiria organised in honour of God Dionysos; at Kouklia, where the Temple of Aphrodite once stood, a church was known until a few years ago as 'The Church of the Virgin Mary Aphroditissa'. The aura of the Great Goddess of Cyprus is still present in Pafos, and all over 'the Sweet Land of Cyprus' in the beauty of the landscape, the mildness of the climate and the charm of the people. The immortal words of Euripides and Sophocles ring out on warm summer evenings at the Ancient Kourion Theatre and the Pafos Odeon during performances of ancient Greek drama.



And in September wine flows free and the spirit of Dionysos, god of wine and merriment, is present throughout the Wine Festival. The Mediaeval folk songs are still sung in Cyprus keeping alive the legends of Digenis, the unconquerable border guard of Byzantium, and of his beautiful Queen, Rigaina. In the narrow streets of the walled city of Lefkosia the coppersmith works with the metal as did his ancestors 5,000 years ago. In the shade of old houses with their overlooking balconies, the flavour of the past lingers among the old typical stone houses.

In Cyprus the past lives side by side with the present in a unique tapestry of living history.



3



4

C y p r u s

BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY

R 8200-3900 BC - **NEOLITHIC AGE**
 Remains of the oldest known settlements in Cyprus date from this period. This civilisation developed along the North and South coasts. First, only stone vessels were used. Pottery appeared on a second phase after 5000 BC.

3900-2500 BC - CHALCOLITHIC AGE

Transitional period between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Most Chalcolithic settlements are found in Western Cyprus, where a fertility cult developed. Copper is being discovered and exploited on a small scale.

2500-1050 BC - BRONZE AGE

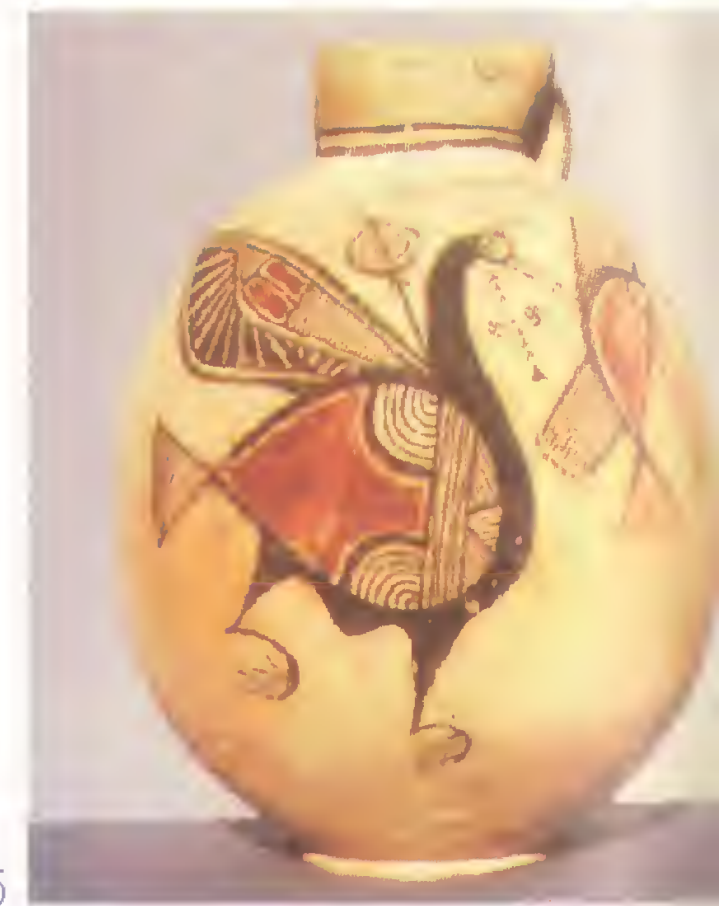
Copper is more extensively exploited bringing wealth to Cyprus. Trade develops with the Near East, Egypt and the Aegean, where Cyprus is known under the name of Alasia.

After 1400 BC Mycenaeans from Greece reach the island as merchants. During the 12th and 11th centuries, mass waves of Achaean Greeks come to settle on the island spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. They gradually take control over Cyprus and establish the first city-kingdoms of Pafos, Salamis, Kition and Kourion. The Hellenisation of the island is now in progress.

1050-750 BC - GEOMETRIC PERIOD

Cyprus is now a Greek island with ten city-kingdoms.

The cult of the Goddess Aphrodite flourishes at her birthplace Cyprus. Phoenicians settle at Kition. The 8th century BC is a period of great prosperity.





750-325 BC - ARCHAIC AND CLASSICAL PERIOD

The era of prosperity continues, but the island falls prey to several conquerors. Cypriot Kingdoms become successively tributary to Assyria, Egypt and Persia. King Evagoras of Salamis (who ruled from 411-374 BC) unifies Cyprus and makes the island one of the leading political and cultural centres of the Greek world.

333-325 BC

The city-kingdoms of Cyprus welcome Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, and Cyprus becomes part of his empire.



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325-58 BC - HELLENISTIC PERIOD

After the rivalries for succession between Alexander's generals, Cyprus eventually comes under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt, and belongs from now onwards to the Greek Alexandrine world. The Ptolemies abolish the city-kingdoms and unify Cyprus. Pafos becomes the capital.



58 BC - 330 AD - ROMAN PERIOD

Cyprus comes under the dominion of the Roman Empire. During the missionary journey of Saints Paul and Barnabas, the Proconsul Sergius Paulus is converted to Christianity and Cyprus becomes the first country to be governed by a Christian.

Destructive earthquakes occur during the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD and cities are rebuilt. In 313 the Edict of Milan grants freedom of worship to Christians and Cypriot bishops attend the Council of Nicaea in 325.

330-1191 AD - BYZANTINE PERIOD

After the division of the Roman Empire Cyprus comes under the Eastern Roman Empire, known as Byzantium, with Constantinople as its capital.



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Christianity becomes the official religion. Empress Helena visits Cyprus and founds the Stavrovouni Monastery. New earthquakes during the 4th century AD completely destroy the main cities. New cities arise, Constantia is now capital, and large basilicas are built from the 4th to 5th century AD.

In 488, after the tomb of St. Barnabas is found, Emperor Zeno grants the Church of Cyprus full autonomy and gives the Archbishop the privileges of holding a sceptre instead of a pastoral staff, wearing a purple mantle and signing in red ink. In 647 Arabs invade the island under Muawiya. For three centuries Cyprus is constantly under attack by Arabs and pirates until 965, when Emperor Nicephoros Phocas expels Arabs from Asia Minor and Cyprus.



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1191-1192 - RICHARD THE LIONHEART AND THE TEMPLARS

Isaac Comnenus, self proclaimed 'Emperor' of Cyprus, behaves discourteously to survivors of a shipwreck involving ships of Richard's fleet on their way to the Third Crusade. Richard in revenge defeats Isaac, and takes possession of Cyprus marrying Berengaria of Navarre in Lemesos where she is crowned Queen of England.

A year later he sells the island for 100,000 dinars to the Knights Templars who resell it at the same price to Guy de Lusignan, deposed King of Jerusalem.

1192-1489 - FRANKISH (LUSIGNAN) PERIOD

Cyprus is ruled on the feudal system and the Catholic Church officially replaces the Greek Orthodox, which though under severe suppression manages to survive. The city of Ammochostos is now one of the richest in the Near East. It is during this period that the historical names of Lefkosia, Ammochostos and Lemesos are being referred to as Nicosia, Famagusta and Limassol respectively. The era of the Lusignan dynasty ends when the last Queen Catherina Cornaro cedes Cyprus to Venice in 1489.



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1489-1571 - VENETIAN PERIOD

Venetians view Cyprus as a last bastion against the Ottomans in the east Mediterranean and fortify the island, tearing down lovely buildings in Lefkosia to reduce the boundaries of the city within fortified walls. They also build impressive walls around Ammochostos which were considered at the time as works of art of military architecture.

1571-1878 - OTTOMAN PERIOD

In 1570 Ottoman troops attack Cyprus, capture Lefkosia, slaughter 20.000 of the population and lay siege to Ammochostos for a year. After a brave defence by Venetian commander Marc Antonio Bragadin, Ammochostos falls to the Ottoman commander Lala Mustafa, who at first allows the besieged a peaceful exodus, but later orders the flaying of Bragadin and puts all others to death. On annexation to the Ottoman Empire, the Latin leadership is expelled or converted to Islam and the Greek Orthodox Church restored; in time, the Archbishop, as leader of the Greek Orthodox, becomes the people's representative to the Sultan. When the Greek War of Independence breaks out in 1821, the Archbishop of Cyprus, Kyprianos, three bishops and prominent Cypriots are executed. The Muslim minority during the Ottoman period eventually acquires a Cypriot identity.

1878-1960 - BRITISH PERIOD

Under the 1878 Cyprus Convention, Britain assumes administration of the island. It remains formally part of the Ottoman Empire until the latter enters the First World War on the side of Germany, and Britain in consequence annexes Cyprus in 1914. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquishes all rights to Cyprus. In 1925 Cyprus is declared a Crown colony. In 1940 Cypriot volunteers serve in the British Armed Forces throughout the Second World War. Hopes for self-determination being granted to other countries in the post-war period are shattered by the British who consider the island vitally strategic. After all means of peaceful settling of the problem are exhausted, a national liberation struggle is launched in 1955 against colonial rule and for union of Cyprus with Greece, which lasts until 1959.



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1960 - REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

According to the Zurich-London Treaty, Cyprus becomes an independent republic on 16th August 1960. It is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. According to the above treaty, Britain retains two Sovereign Bases (158.5 sq. km) on the island, at Dekeleia and Akrotiri-Episkopi. The 1960 Constitution of the Cyprus Republic proves unworkable in many of its provisions and this makes its smooth implementation impossible.

In 1963, the President of the Republic proposes some amendments to facilitate the functioning of the state and the Turkish Cypriot community responds with rebellion.

The Turkish Cypriot ministers withdraw from the Cabinet and Turkish Cypriot civil servants cease attending their offices while Turkey threatens to invade Cyprus. Since then, the aim of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, acting on instructions from the Turkish Government, has been the partitioning of Cyprus and its annexation to Turkey.

Using as a pretext the coup of July 1974, instigated against the Cyprus Government by the military Junta, then in power in Athens, Turkey invades Cyprus on July 20 1974, violating all principles governing international relations and the UN Charter. As a result, approximately 37% of the island is occupied, 40% of the Greek Cypriot population violently uprooted and thousands of people, including civilians, killed, ill-treated or disappear without trace. The continuation of Turkish

military occupation and the violation of the fundamental human rights of the people of Cyprus have been condemned by international bodies, but until today Turkey refuses to withdraw from Cyprus and maintains the island's division by the force of arms.





L e f k o s i a (Nicosia)

Lefkosia lies roughly at the centre of the island, with a rich history that can be traced back to the Bronze Age. It only became capital of the island in the 11th century AD. The Lusignans turned it into a magnificent city with a Royal Palace and over fifty churches. Today it blends its historic past brilliantly with the bustle of a modern city. The heart of the city, enclosed by 16th century Venetian walls, is dotted with museums, ancient churches and mediaeval buildings preserving the nostalgic atmosphere of years past. Yet this old heart is split in two, leaving Lefkosia the only capital city to remain divided by force. The new Lefkosia developed outside the walls, and became a contemporary and cosmopolitan business and cultural centre. Just a few miles away are enchanting places of interest such as Byzantine churches and monasteries, archaeological sites and charming villages. Organised free walking tours give an exceptional chance to the visitor to get acquainted with the character of the old city.

Starting point: C.T.O. Office (Laiki Geitonia) on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00, Tel: (02) 67 42 64.

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Places of Interest

CYPRUS MUSEUM

Mouseiou 1 Tel: (02) 86 58 64

Priceless and fascinating collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the Early Byzantine period.

KASTELIOTISSA (Medieval hall)

(Opposite Pafos Gate)

This hall with its strong gothic elements was once part of a Lusignan Palace which dates back to the 13th-14th centuries.



It has been restored by the Department of Antiquities and today is used as a Cultural Centre open to the public only during Cultural events.

THE LEVENTIS MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF NICOSIA

Ippokratous 17, near Laïki Geitonia, Tel: (02) 66 14 75

The historical museum of Lefkosia revives life in the capital from ancient times to the present day.

BYZANTINE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERIES

Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Cultural Centre within the Archbishopric, Plateia Arch. Kyprianou Tel: (02) 43 00 08.

Largest collection of icons on the island, covering the period from 9th to 18th century. The Art Galleries contain oil paintings, maps and lithographs.

THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF CYPRUS

(Former Cyprus Folk Art Museum)

Founded by the society of Cypriote Studies

Plateia Arch. Kyprianou Tel: (02) 43 25 78

Wide collection of Cypriot folk art of the 19th and early 20th century, including wood-carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, national costumes and handwoven materials.

NATIONAL STRUGGLE MUSEUM

Near the Archbishopric, Plateia Arch. Kyprianou, Tel: (02) 30 45 50

Documents, photos and other memorabilia of the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle.

AGIOS IOANNIS CATHEDRAL

Within the Archbishopric area, Plateia Arch. Kyprianou.

Built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662, the 18th century wall paintings depict scenes from the Bible and the discovery of the tomb of Saint Barnabas at Salamis. Dedicated to Agios Ioannis Theologos (Saint John the Theologian)



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ARCHBISHOPRIC (OLD AND NEW)

Plateia Arch. Kyprianou

Centre of the Cyprus Orthodox Church, the new Archbishopric was built in a neo-Byzantine style in 1960. The Old Archbishopric houses the Ethnographic museum of Cyprus.

THE HOUSE OF CHATZIGEORGAKIS KORNESIOS

Patriarchou Grigoriou 20, near the Archbishopric. Tel: (02) 305316

It is the most important 18th century building in Lefkosia which after being restored, won the 1988 Europa Nostra Award. Once the residence of the Dragoman Chatzigeorgakis Kornesios, it now houses the Cyprus Ethnological Museum.



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CYPRUS POSTAL MUSEUM

Agiou Savva Str. 3B, Tel: (02) 30 47 11

Collection of Cyprus stamps from 1800 onwards. These stamps, classified internationally amongst the best, are of significant value in world philately.



CYPRUS JEWELLERS' MUSEUM

Praxippou 7-9 Lefkosia, Tel: (02) 66 72 78

A display of traditional jewellery from the end of the 19th century including ornaments, religious items, silver utensils and old tools.



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FAMAGUSTA GATE

Leoforos Athinon Tel: (02) 43 08 77

The Venetian walls which completely encircle the old city have a circumference of 4,5 km and possess eleven heart-shaped bastions. There were only three gates to the city in the north, south and east. One of these gates, the Porta Giuliana called Famagusta Gate, has been restored and is now the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre. The vaulted passage and two side rooms are used for exhibitions, conferences, lectures and various performances, with the passage leading to the moat. One of the most typical quarters of the town close to Famagusta Gate is also being rehabilitated.

THE NICOSIA MUNICIPAL ARTS CENTRE

Apostolou Varnava 19, Tel: (02) 43 25 77

The centre is housed in the building of the old power station which is one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in Cyprus. Its aim is to promote contemporary creativity at its highest level by organising important and prestigious exhibitions.

STATE GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Leoforos Stasinou and Kritis, Tel: (02) 30 29 51, 30 29 52

Representative collection of paintings and sculpture by 20th century Cypriots artists.

CHRYSALINIOTISSA CHURCH

Within walking distance from the Archbishopric.

Considered the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia, it is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Flax' and is believed to have been built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologos.

OMERIYE MOSQUE

Trikoupi str. & Tillirias Square

Near the main Municipal Market within the walled city. Converted into a mosque in 1571 by Mustapha Pasha, who believed that the original 14th century Augustinian church of St. Mary was built on the spot where prophet Omer rested



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when visiting Lefkosia. Most of the original building was destroyed by Ottoman artillery. The door of the main entrance belongs to the 14th century Lusignan building. Remains of a later Renaissance phase of the building can be seen at the northeastern side of the monument.

FANEROMENI CHURCH

Onasagorou street, within the old city.

Built in 1872 this used to be the largest church in Lefkosia. The marble mausoleum to the east of the church contains the relics of the bishops and priests executed by the Turks in 1821.

TRYPIOTIS CHURCH

Solonos 47-49, near Laiki Geitonia.

Built by Archbishop Germanos II in 1695, it is an interesting example of the Franco-Byzantine style.

LIDRA STREET LOOKOUT POINT

Lidra Street, Shakolas building, Tel: (02) 67 93 69

Situated on the 11th floor of the Shakolas building, this offers a panoramic 360 degree view of the town of Lefkosia.

LAIKI GEITONIA

Pedestrian area within the walled city, east of Plateia Eleftherias.

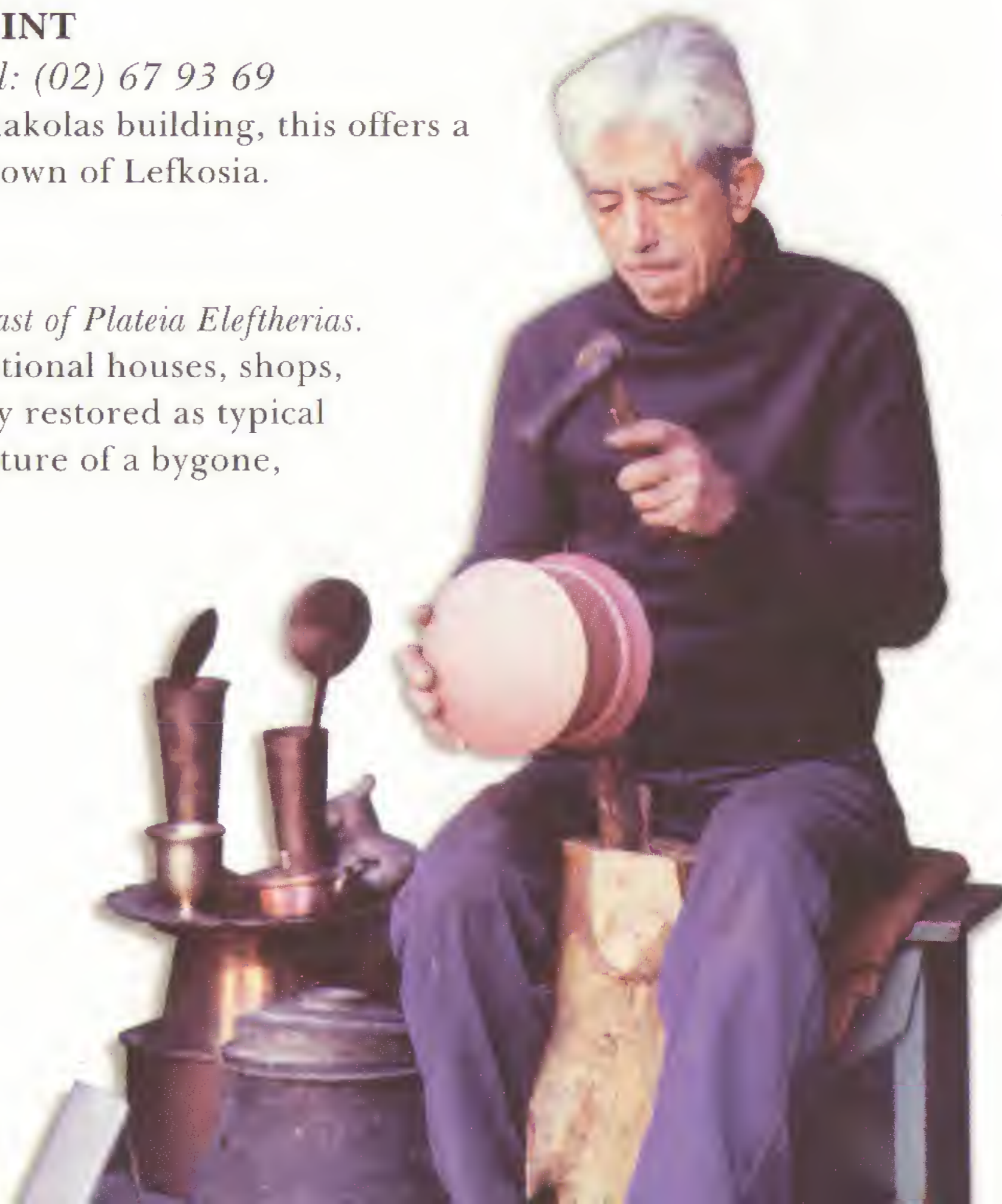
Charming winding alleys with traditional houses, shops, restaurants and galleries all lovingly restored as typical examples of Cypriot urban architecture of a bygone, more graceful age.



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CHRYSALINIOTISSA CRAFTS CENTRE

Ipponaktos and Dimonaktos

An interesting complex of eight workshops nestling around a central courtyard, designed on the basis of a traditional inn architectural concept. It accommodates units engaged in contemporary applications of traditional crafts.



MUNICIPAL THEATRE

Mouseiou, opposite the Cyprus Museum, Tel: (02) 49 29 00, 66 40 28

Built in a neo-Classical style, the theatre is used for musical concerts, dance performances and various ceremonies. It is also the main venue of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

Leoforos Lordou Vyronos, Tel: (02) 44 22 41

This parish church for Anglican residents was built in 1893 in a style reminiscent of many English village churches.

CYPRUS HANDICRAFT CENTRE

Leoforos Athalassas 186, Tel: (02) 30 50 24

The government-run centre aims to promote and enrich the traditional folk art and craft skills. It has various workshops and a showroom/shop at its premises, as well as shops in Laiki Geitonia and in all other towns.

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF CYPRIOTE COINAGE

Stasinou 51. Agia Paraskevi, Bank of Cyprus Headquarters, Tel: (02) 67 71 35

Permanent exhibition presenting the development of coinage of Cyprus from the 6th century BC to the present day.



LEFKOSIA OUTSKIRTS

Five municipalities are situated on the outskirts of Lefkosia. In Aglantzia you can visit the Natural History Museum, (Tel: (02) 33 31 41) and the Skali Cultural Centre overlooking the area with the Pentadaktylos mountain range as a backdrop. Skali has galleries and lecture theatres in a style that is in harmony with the geological formations of the area. Aglantzia also has a number of interesting chapels of the 18th century such as the chapel of Panagia, of Agios Georgios at Skali and Agios Georgios in Athalassa.

Interesting sites in the old sector of Strovolos include the Pancyprian Geographical Museum, (Tel: (02) 42 79 29) which is the first of its kind on the island and is housed in a renovated inn, and the 18th century church of Agios Georgios.

In Agios Dometios you can visit the church of Agios Dometios, late 17th century, while in Egkomi there is the Panagia of Makedonitissa, the Municipal Gallery and the Outdoor Museum of Folk Art. In Latsia the Gorge of Kakaristra is considered to be an important geological landmark. Tours can be organised by prior arrangements from (Tel: (02) 48 84 85).

In Kaimakli the 18th century Church of the Archangel is worth seeing, as is the church of Agia Varvara, of the end of the 19th - beginning of 20th century.

The Cyprus Museum of Natural History "Photos Photiades" Foundation, located within the public reception premises of Carlsberg Brewery in Latsia, houses a collection of birds, animals, reptiles, fossils, rocks and species from the marine life. It is open daily on weekdays from 08:00-16:00 hrs. Tel. (02) 482211.



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Lefkosia area

DALI REGION

About 20 km south of Lefkosia, on the Lefkosia - Larnaka/Lemesos road. Remains of all the historic periods of the island can be traced in the area. Excavations of Ancient Dali, one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus, are currently taking place in the town of Dali.

The Byzantine church of Agioi Apostoloi can be seen at Pera Chorio. It has excellent examples of wall paintings dating back to the late 12th century, which are considered by scholars as some of the finest examples of Komninan style in Cyprus. An important church in the region is that of Agios Dimitrios (16 century).

Medieval ruins exist around the village of Potamia, namely the ruins of the summer palace of the Frankish kings of Cyprus, as well as those of a Gothic church.



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PANAGIA CHRYSOSPILIOTISSA

Near Deftera village, 11 km southwest of Lefkosia.

Dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Cave', the catacomb structure of the church indicates that it dates back to the early Christian period. A religious fair is held near the church on 15th August, name day of the Virgin Mary.

TAMASSOS

Politiko village, 20 km southwest of Lefkosia

Tamassos was a rich city-kingdom in ancient Cyprus renown for its copper mines.

Excavations have brought to light the Royal Tombs and copper workshops associated with Aphrodite-Astarte.

AGIOS IRAKLEIDIOS CONVENT

Politiko village, 0,5 km from the Royal Tombs.

When Saints Paul and Barnabas came to Cyprus, they were guided to Tamassos by Irakleidios, whom they later consecrated as Bishop of Tamassos. He was martyred and buried in the cave where he had lived and preached. The monastery, founded in 400 AD, was destroyed and rebuilt several times until Archbishop Chrysanthos renovated the church and cells in 1773. The relics of the saint are kept in a silver gilt case.

Organised groups may visit the convent on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:00'-12:00hrs. The use of photo and video cameras inside the convent is prohibited.

MACHAIRAS MONASTERY

41 km south of Lefkosia through Deftera and Pera villages.

Founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave, the monastery is set in a picturesque dip in the Machairas mountains. Following a grant by the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation the vestry of Machairas monastery which is housed in the monastery basement, has been renovated and consists of the original cells of the monks as well as stables and storage areas which were restored specifically for this purpose. The Vestry has a room where the Monastery's old books and manuscripts are kept, galleries and rooms containing icons and other religious artefacts.



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The brotherhood is extremely devout, keeping vows as strict as those of Mount Athos in Greece.

Organised groups may visit the monastery on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:00'-12:00'hrs. The use of photo and video cameras inside the monastery is prohibited.

FIKARDOU

*1,5 km east of Gourri village (Machairas - Lefkosia road via Klirou).
Tel: (02) 63 47 31*

The whole village has been declared an ancient 'monument' in order to preserve the remarkable woodwork and folk architecture of the 18th century houses. The Houses of Katsinioros and Achilleas Dimitri, some parts of which date back to the 16th century, have been restored as vivid examples of rural architecture.

In consequence they received the EUROPA NOSTRA award in 1987.



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AGIOS PANTELEIMON CONVENT

1,5 km northwest of Agrokippia village.

An 18th century monastery with a gabled roof, now serving as a retreat for three nuns.

ARCHANGELOS MICHAIL CONVENT

Off the Lefkosia - Anthoupolis road, 10 minutes drive from Lefkosia.

The church dating to the Byzantine period was founded by Archbishop Nikiforos whose tomb can be seen in the narthex of the church. Rebuilding was carried out in 1636 and in 1713 when it was purchased by Kykkos Monastery. The iconostasis dates back to 1650 and there is a 1785 fresco of Archangelos Michail. It now houses the Kykkos Monastery Research Centre.



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PERISTERONA

27 km from Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Troodos road.

The Saints Barnabas and Hilarion church founded here, was probably erected in the early 10th century, and is an outstanding example of Byzantine architecture with five domes forming a cross. Next to the church stands the Turkish mosque of Peristerona, witness to the long and peaceful coexistence between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots of the village (and the whole of Cyprus) in a time when Turkey had not yet adopted its partitionist and expansionist policy.





L e m e s o s (Limassol)

Successor to two city-kingdoms and host to a Royal Wedding in the Middle Ages, contemporary Lemesos stretches along the south coast. Proud of the spontaneous hospitality of its people, its archaeological sites, its mediaeval castles and its merry Carnival and Wine festivals, Lemesos is the island's most important tourist and wine industry centre. Hotels, restaurants and night spots abound along the beach whilst close by lie the pine-clad southern slopes of Troodos with the picturesque wine producing villages, the idyllic mountain resorts and the picturesque Pitsylia area.



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Places of interest



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LEMESOS MEDIAEVAL FORT- CYPRUS MEDIAEVAL MUSEUM

Near the old port. Tel: (05) 33 04 19

Built in the 14th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle it houses the Cyprus Mediaeval Museum. It was here that, according to tradition, Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England in 1191.

LEMESOS DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Vyronos 5, near the Public Gardens Tel: (05) 33 01 57

Interesting collection of antiquities found in the Lemesos area from the Neolithic Age to the Roman Period.

MUNICIPAL FOLK ART MUSEUM

Agiou Andreou 253, Tel: (05) 36 23 03

A beautiful collection of Cyprus Folk Art of the 19th and early 20th century is exhibited in a restored old house.

LEMESOS MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

28 Oktovriou 103, Tel: (05) 34 32 12, 34 33 83

The art gallery houses a representative collection of paintings of well known contemporary Cypriot artists.

L e m e s o s a r e a

KOLOSSI CASTLE

14 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos.

A fine example of military architecture, originally constructed in the 13th century and subsequently rebuilt in its present form in the middle of the 15th century. After the fall of Acre in 1291, it served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. In the 14th century it came for a few years under the domain of the Knights Templar. Nearby are the ruins of a sugar mill dating to the 14th century.

KOURION MUSEUM

14 km west of Lemesos, 4 km before Kourion site, at Episkopi village. Tel: (05) 23 24 53

Collection of finds from nearby archaeological sites, exhibited in a beautiful old house.



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KOURION

19 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos.

An important ancient city-kingdom, and one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island where excavations still bring new treasures to light. The magnificent Graeco-Roman Theatre was originally built in the 2nd century BC and is now fully restored and used for musical and theatrical performances. The House of Eustolios, originally a private Roman villa, became a public recreation centre during the Early Christian period. It consists of a complex of baths and a number of rooms with beautiful 5th century AD mosaic floors. The Early Christian basilica dated to the 5th century, was probably the Cathedral of Kourion with a baptistery attached to the north face. The House of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators have beautiful mosaic floors. The Nymphaeum, dedicated to water nymphs, is an elegant Roman structure. The Stadium lies 1 km to the west on the right side of the road to Pafos and is dated to the 2nd century AD.

SANCTUARY OF APOLLO YLATIS

3 km west of Kourion, on the road to Pafos.

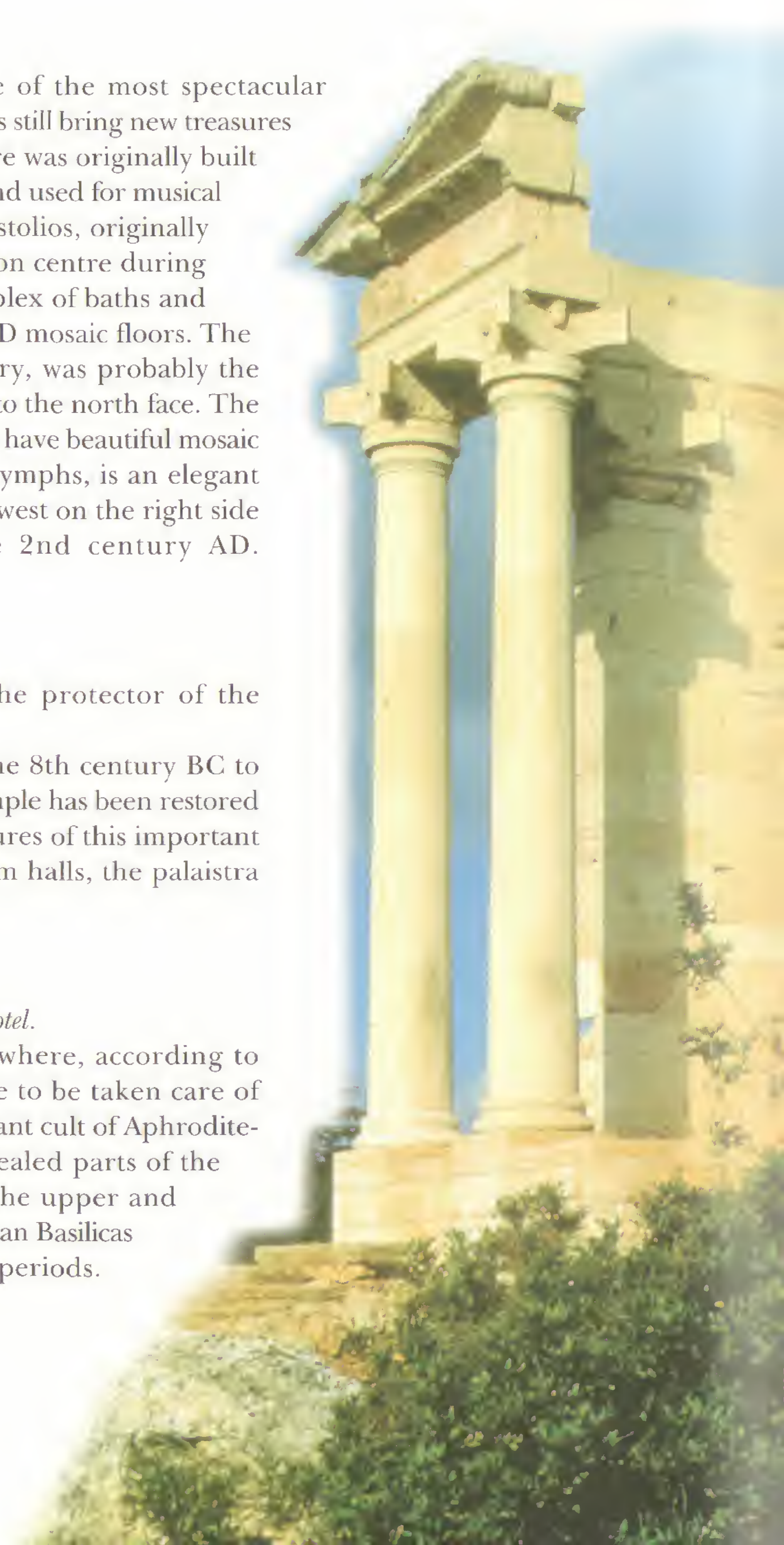
Apollo Ylatis, God of the Woodland, was the protector of the city of Kourion.

The cult of Apollo was celebrated here from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. The southwest side of the temple has been restored and excavations have also revealed other structures of this important sanctuary such as the bath complex, the pilgrim halls, the palaistra and a holy precinct.

AMATHOUS ANCIENT SITE

11 km east of Lemesos town centre, close to Amathus Hotel.

One of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne to be taken care of after his battle with the Minotaur. A very important cult of Aphrodite-Astarte flourished here. Excavations have revealed parts of the Acropolis and Agora areas, as well as part of the upper and lower city. The remains including five early Christian Basilicas date from the Archaic, Roman and Christian periods.



CHURCH OF PANAGIA IAMATIKI

Arakapas village

A three-aisled wooden roofed church with excellent wall paintings of the Italo-Byzantine style, dating to the first half of the 16th century.

AGIA ANASTASIA CHURCH

Pano Polemidia

This is a complex of two churches. The older one, possibly dating to the 12th century, is on the east side and is a cross-in-square domed church. The second church on the west side was added in the 14th century and built in the same architectural style. The surviving mural paintings date back to the 14th -15th centuries.

AGIA CHRISTINA CHURCH

Germasogeia

Germasogeia is an important municipality in the Lemesos area. The church of Agia Christina, which lies in the centre of the village, also houses the Germasogeia Ecclesiastical Museum. It is a small church with a flat roof, the outcome of several recent interventions. Recently restoration work has revealed 16th century wall paintings.

AGIOS GEORGIOS ALAMANOS CONVENT

Off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road 19 km from Lemesos.

Originally founded in the 12th century. The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, spend their time in icon-painting, the cultivation of flowers and herbs and the production of honey.

KOURRIS VALLEY

A series of important Byzantine monuments, e.g. Panagia Amasgou, Timios Stavros - Kouka, Archangelos Monagri, can be found along the Kourris valley, about 20 minutes from Lemesos. The vaulted church of the Monastery of Panagia tis Amasgou belongs to the 12th century and is covered by a second roof made of wood and tiles. The church retains 12th, 14th and 16th century wall paintings. The monastery is now run as a nunnery. The Archangelos at Monagri was built in 1740 on the foundations of an older monastery that had burned down. Of interest is the painted wood-carved iconostasis and the nearby olive oil mill of the Roman period. The northern buildings of the monastery have been renovated and turned into a Centre for Contemporary Art.

Timios Stavros at Kouka has an excellent example of the Palaeologian style on a wall painting of the 14th century.

Not far away is the picturesque village of Laneia, a favourite with artists.



56



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58



L a r n a k a



Larnaka, a town with an easy-going pace, has strong links to the past. In the heart of modern Larnaka one finds remains of the ancient city-kingdom of Kition, reminiscent of its glorious days. The Mycenaean Greeks fortified the town with cyclopean walls in the 12th century while the Phoenicians founded a powerful kingdom here in the 9th century. Kition is the birthplace of the philosopher Zeno, founder of the Stoic School, and it is here that Saint Lazarus came to live after his resurrection. In the 18th century it became a commercial centre and the seat of the European consulates. The delightful Palm Trees Promenade, its fort, and its old quarters give Larnaka its unique character. The nearby salt lake is a favourite stop-over spot for thousands of migrant birds in winter, whilst on its edge in a tranquil setting stands a popular Muslim pilgrimage place.

The whole district of Larnaka has something special to offer the visitor, including Choirokoitia, the oldest Neolithic settlement on the island, Stavrovouni Monastery and the famous Church of Angeloktisti.

Do not miss the unique opportunity of becoming acquainted with the authentic character of the city by joining the Larnaka walks.

Starting point: a) C.T.O. Office - 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays
(Tel: (04) 65 43 22).

b) Larnaka Fort - 10:00 a.m. on Fridays, (Tel: (04) 63 05 76).

Places of Interest

THE BUST OF KIMON

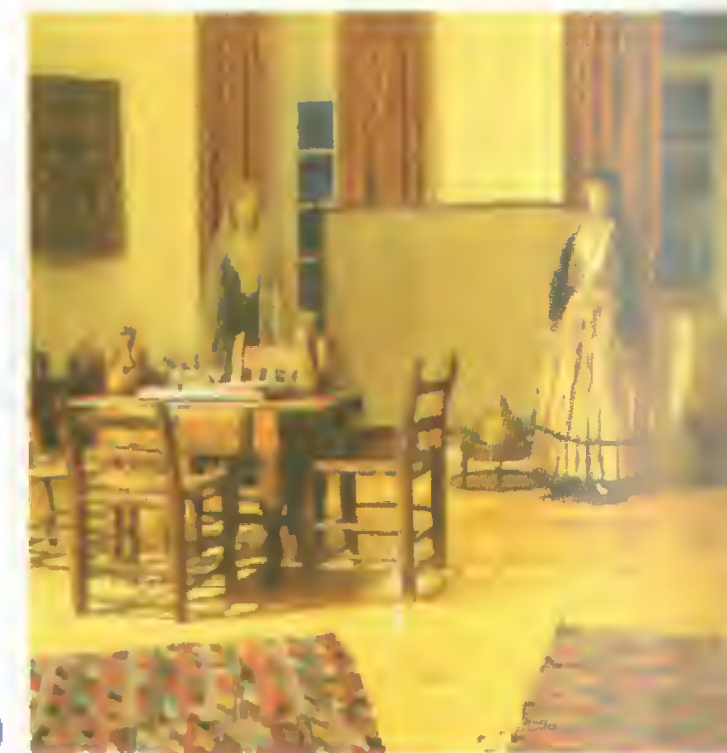
At the seafront promenade.

The Athenian General Kimon led 200 triremes in 450 BC to free Cyprus from the Persians. He died while he was besieging Kition.

LARNAKA DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Plateia Kalogreon Tel: (04) 63 01 69

Interesting collection of finds from the Larnaka area dating from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period.



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THE PIERIDES FOUNDATION MUSEUM

Zimonos Kitieos 4 Tel: (04) 65 24 95

The oldest privately owned museum in Cyprus, set up by Dimitrios Pierides (1811 -1895). It houses ancient, medieval, Byzantine and more recent objects belonging to the Pierides family.

A display case of modern Greek and Cypriot sculptures can be seen in the courtyard.

LARNAKA FORT - LOCAL MEDIAEVAL MUSEUM

Larnaka seafront.

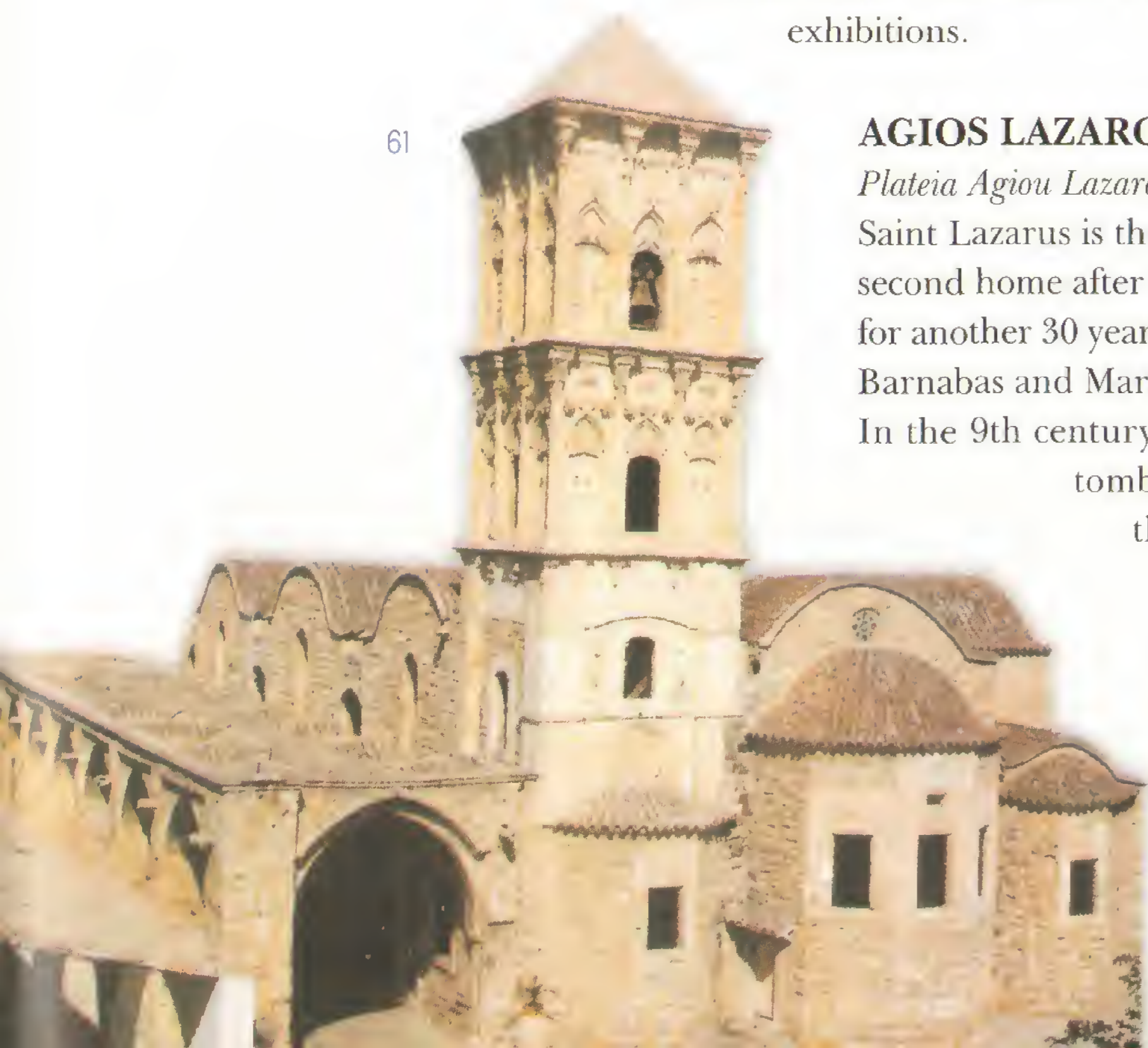
Built in 1625, it was used as a prison in the first years of British rule. It houses the District Mediaeval Museum. The fort is also used as the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre during the summer.

LARNAKA MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER

Plateia Evropis - Seafront promenade, Tel: (04) 65 88 48

Five old Larnaka Customs warehouses, built in the colonial style (1881), have recently been renovated and turned into the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre. It houses the Municipal Gallery and the only Palaeontology Museum in Cyprus, where the ancient fossilised remains of pygmy elephants and hippopotami that once lived on the island can be seen. The Centre also has facilities for occasional exhibitions.

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AGIOS LAZAROS CHURCH

Plateia Agiou Lazarou

Saint Lazarus is the patron saint of Larnaka. Kition became his second home after his resurrection by Christ, and he lived here for another 30 years. He was ordained Bishop of Kition by Saints Barnabas and Mark.

In the 9th century a magnificent church was erected over his tomb by Emperor Leo VI. The church, one of the finest examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus, was faithfully restored in the 17th century, and the iconostasis is an excellent example of baroque woodcarving.



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64



Visitors can see the tomb of Saint Lazarus under the sanctuary and the ecclesiastical museum behind the church. Tel: (04) 65 24 89.

Eight days before the Greek Orthodox Easter the icon of Saint Lazarus is taken in procession through the streets of Larnaka.

KITION

Approximately 500 m. northeast of the Archaeological Museum.

One of the most important ancient city-kingdoms, with architectural remains dating back to the 13th century BC. In about 1200 BC it was rebuilt by the Mycenaean Greeks, and excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone, and a complex of five temples.



65

KAMARES AQUEDUCT

Kamares area on the Larnaka - Lemesos road.

A beautiful 18th century aqueduct which was in use until 1930.

MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

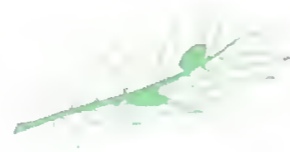
Leoforos Grigori Afxentiou, Tel: (04) 65 25 69

Within the Larnaka Municipal Gardens.

The Museum has displays of rare insects, birds and animals of Cyprus.



66



Larnaka area

HALA SULTAN TEKESI

3 km west of Larnaka on the road to Kiti, passing the Larnaka Airport.

Built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, allegedly a relative of Prophet Mohammed who died on this spot in 649 during the first Arab raids. The mosque is an important place of Moslem pilgrimage ranking immediately after the shrines of Mecca, Medina and Al Aqsha in Jerusalem.



68

ANGELOKTIKTI CHURCH

Kiti village, 11 km west of Larnaka.

Angeloktisti means 'Built by the Angels'. This 11th century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian basilica. The original apse survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th century mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Child between the two archangels, which rivals the Ravenna Mosaics.



67

ROYAL CHAPEL

Pyrga village, 35 km south of Lefkosia, 32 km from Larnaka.

Built by the Lusignan King Janus in 1421, it contains a wall painting of the king with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon, on one of its walls. It is considered one of the most interesting structures surviving from the Frankish Period.



69

STAVROVOUNI MONASTERY

9 km off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road, 40 km from Larnaka.

Perched on a rocky peak, Stavrovouni means Mountain of the Cross. According to tradition it was founded in the 4th century by Saint Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who left a fragment of the Holy Cross to the monastery. The brotherhood is extremely devout, keeping vows as strict as those of the Mount Athos brotherhood in Greece. Women are not allowed in the monastery, though men may visit the monastery daily from sunrise to sunset, except from 12:00-13:00 (15:00 in summer), on Green Monday and the following day. There is an impressive ceremony and celebrations on 14th September, the day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Monastery of Agia Varvara (Saint Barbara) at the foot of Stavrovouni hill, is easily accessible. The monks here have a high reputation for icon painting.



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AGIOS EFFIMIANOS CHURCH

Near Stavrovouni Monastery in Kornos area

The Byzantine church of Agios Effimianos is in Lysi village, presently under Turkish military occupation. After the invasion in 1974 its 14th century frescoes were dismantled, fragmented in 38 pieces and smuggled abroad. They were finally found in Munich where the Government of Cyprus together with the Menil Foundation in USA bought the frescoes with the agreement that these will be exhibited in Houston (USA) for a period of 15 years before their return home.

The people of Lysi have built a new church on the model of the original, where replicas of the frescoes are displayed in the basement.

CHOIROKOITIA

About 32km from Larnaka and 48km south of Lefkosia off the Lefkosia-Lemesos highway.

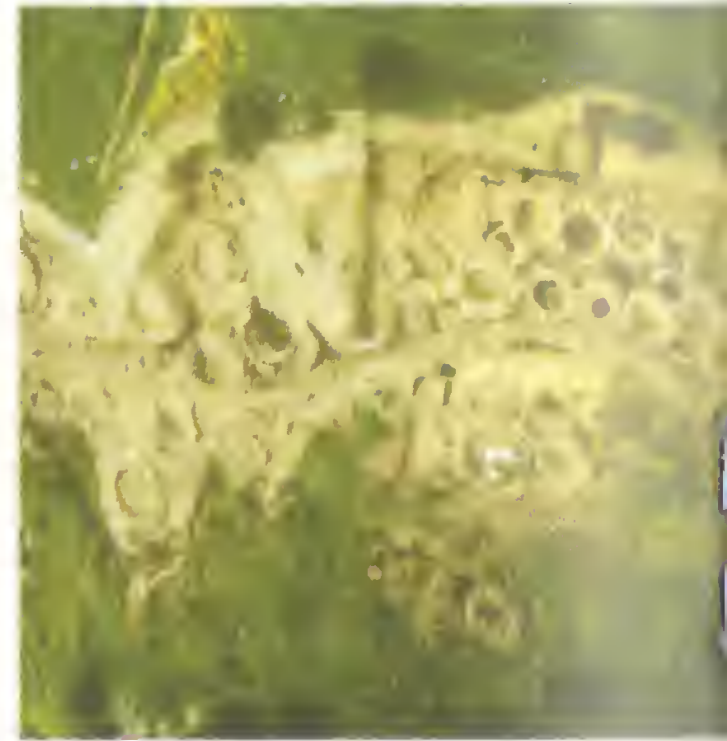
The ancient site of Choirokoitia, is included since 1998 in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage official list. It is the site of a Neolithic settlement found in a better state of preservation than most others from this period, not only in Cyprus but in the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean. It represents through its consecutive phases of building the whole history of the Neolithic period in Cyprus and divulges precious information as to the spread of the Neolithic culture throughout the region. The General Development Plan of Choirokoitia has as its objective to maintain the authenticity of the place, to protect the natural and man-made environment and to give out information through the creation of a Visitors' Centre. Five dwellings in close proximity have been reconstructed following the Neolithic model, using the same methods and traditional materials and have been furnished

with copies of objects actually found inside the houses during excavations, in order to give a better impression of the layout of the village as it was in antiquity. In addition the plant life around these huts represents plants that were cultivated or indigenous trees that grow in Cyprus since the Neolithic times.

KALAVASOS - TENTA

40 km from Larnaka, 2,5 km off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road.

Tenta, one of the most important Neolithic settlements in Cyprus of 7000 BC., lies near the village of Kalavasos.

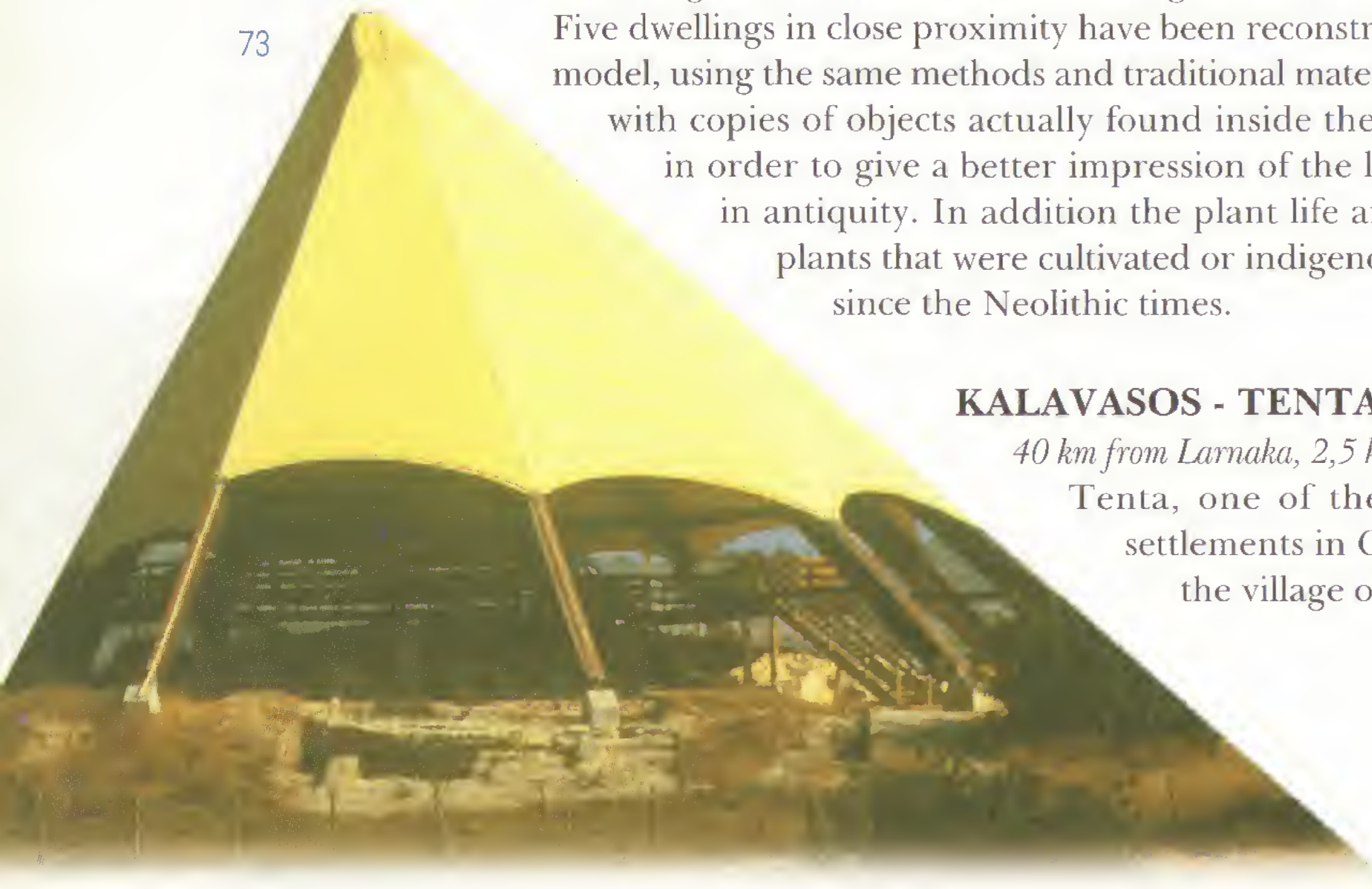


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LEFKARA

8 km from Skarinou, off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road, 40 km from Larnaka. A picturesque village, famous for its local lace known as 'Lefkaritika' and for its silverware. According to tradition, Leonardo Da Vinci visited the village and bought an altar cloth, which he donated to the Milan cathedral. The beautiful House of Patsalos houses the Lace and Silverware Museum of Lefkara. The church of Archangelos Michail in Kato Lefkara is of the single aisled domed type and has wall paintings of the late 12th century. At Pano Lefkara there is the church of the Holy Cross with a beautiful 18th century iconostasis and a unique 13th century silver cross. A religious fair takes place on the 13th -14th September, in celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

AGIOS MINAS CONVENT

Near Lefkara

15th century monastery with a church at the centre of the cloisters. The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, are involved in icon-painting. The monastery is open for visits daily, except between 12:00-15:00hrs. For organised group visits the monastery is open from Monday to Friday.

AGIOS ANTONIOS CHURCH

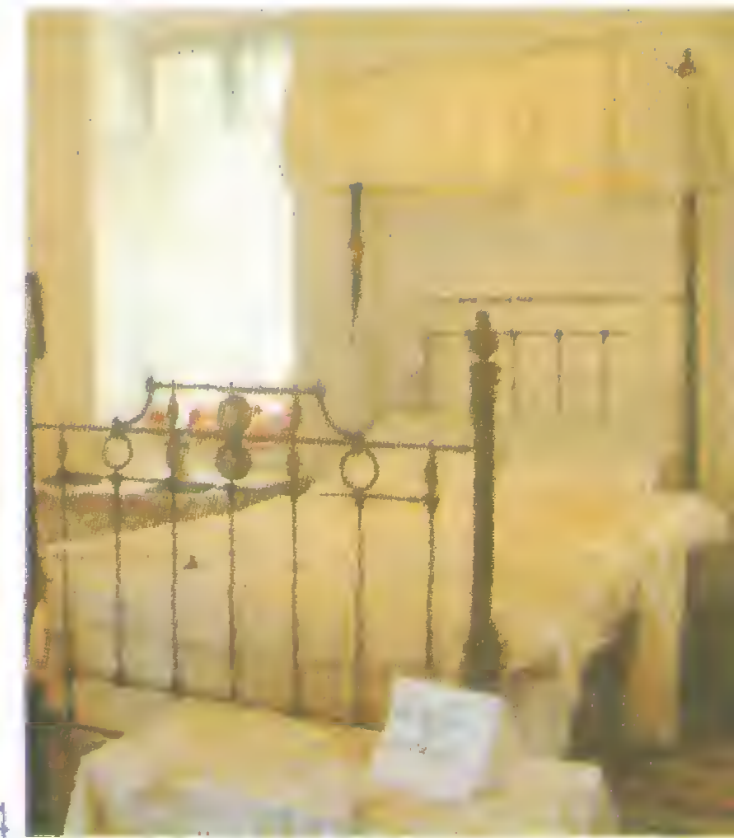
Kellia village

This is one of the most important Byzantine churches of Cyprus, possibly of the 9th century. It is a three-aisled vaulted basilica which has undergone many reconstructions and repairs. It preserves significant wall paintings surviving from the 9th, 11th, 13th centuries.

KOSTAS ARGYROY MUSEUM

Mazotos

The museum displays the work of local sculptor Kostas Argyrou. Visits can be arranged by phone No. (04) 43 22 77.



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P a f o s

The whole town of Pafos is included in the official UNESCO list of cultural and natural treasures of the world heritage. Wherever one treads in Pafos one comes across its glorious history which dates back thousands of years, when the cult of goddess Aphrodite who emerged from its seas, flourished in this beautiful part of the world attracting many visitors from inland and abroad.

Today it is a growing harbour town, but in Hellenistic and Roman times it was the capital of Cyprus. Still under the spell of her Beauty-goddess, the area retaining her magic, has remained intact by time. It seduces its visitor with its majestic landscape, lovely coastline, historical treasures and delightful villages where tradition is still a way of life. Kept in harmony with nature are divine mediaeval monasteries which lie peacefully in the Pafos heartland.

77



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Places of Interest

PAFOS DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Griva Digeni 43, Tel: (06) 240215

Attractive collection of Cypriot antiquities from the Pafos area, dating from the Neolithic Age to 1700 AD

BYZANTINE MUSEUM

A. Ioannou 3 next to the Bishopric. Tel: (06) 23 13 93

An attractive collection of objects from the Byzantine period, including Byzantine icons from the 7th to 18th centuries, and the oldest icon found yet in Cyprus of the 7th or 8th century.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM

Exo Vrysis 1, Tel: (06) 23 20 10

Interesting private collection of objects from the Neolithic Age to the present day.



PAFOS MEDIAEVAL FORT

Kato Pafos harbour.

Originally a Byzantine fort built to protect the harbour, it was rebuilt by the Lusignans in the 13th century, dismantled by the Venetians in 1570 and rebuilt by the Ottomans after they captured the island in the 16th century.

AGIA SOLOMONI CHURCH

Kato Pafos, Leoforos Agiou Pavlou

Originally a Christian catacomb retaining some of the 12th century frescoes. A sacred tree at the entrance is believed to cure the ailments of those who hang a personal offering on its branches.

KATO PAFOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

The inclusion of the Kato Pafos archaeological area in the World Heritage List in 1980 sparked off the idea of the creation of a General Plan whose main aim is to preserve and maintain the archaeological remains and to promote and provide integral information to visitors. The archaeological site of Kato Pafos includes areas and monuments from prehistoric times up to and including the Middle Ages, with most remains dating to the Roman period. The remarkable mosaic floors of four villas of the Roman period are the epitome of all these findings. Other important monuments are the Asklipeio, the Odeon, the early Christian Basilica and the fort of Saranta Kolones.

TOMBS OF THE KINGS

Kato Pafos, Tel: (06) 24 02 95

Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock with some being decorated with Doric pillars. High officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the locality its name.



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82

THE MOSAICS OF PAFOS

House of Dionysos, House of Theseus and House of Aion.

Kato Pafos, near the harbour, Tel: (06) 24 02 17

The mosaic floors of these noblemen's villas dating from the 3rd to the 5th century AD are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. They mainly depict scenes from Greek mythology.

PAFOS ODEON

Kato Pafos

A small 2nd century Odeon built entirely of well-hewn limestone blocks, it is now used in the summer for musical and theatrical performances. Nearby are the remains of the ancient city walls, the Roman Agora and a building dedicated to Asklepeios, god of medicine.



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SARANTA KOLONES

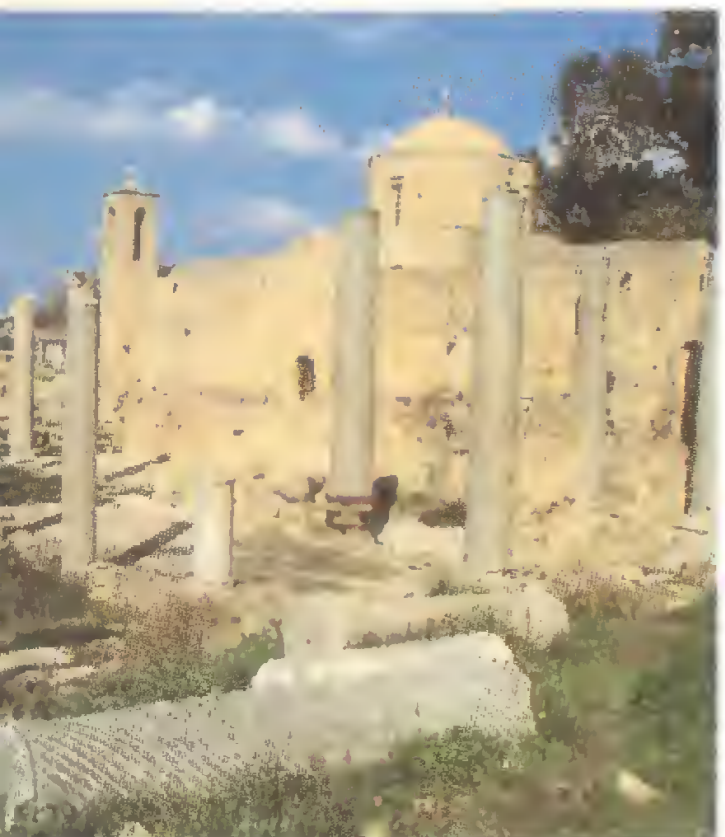
Kato Pafos, near the harbour.

This castle was built by the Lusignans at the beginning of the early 13th century on the site of a previous Byzantine Castle. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.

PANAGIA LIMENIOTISSA BASILICA

Kato Pafos, near the harbour.

Built in the early 5th century and dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Harbour', it was almost completely destroyed during the 7th century Arab raids.



84

PANAGIA CHRYSOPOLITISSA CHURCH AND EARLY CHRISTIAN BASILICA

Kato Pafos

Built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest Early Byzantine basilica on the island. Within the compound one can see St. Paul's Pillar, where according to tradition Saint Paul was flogged before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity.

THEOSKEPASTI CHURCH

Kato Pafos.

Theoskepasti means 'Veiled by God'. According to tradition, a fog was sent by God to protect the original church during the Arab raids. The modern church was built in 1923.



85



THE "BATHS"

Near the old market place of Pafos.

They date back to the Turkish period and functioned up until the early '50s. It is a stone vaulted building consisting of three main areas: reception, intermediate area, and the main baths. The building has been restored and will be used as a Cultural Centre by the Pafos Municipality.

Pafos area

GEROSKIPOU FOLK ART MUSEUM

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Tel: (06) 24 02 16

The name of the village comes from the Greek phrase 'Ieros Kipos' the sacred garden of Aphrodite. A fascinating collection of folk arts and crafts is exhibited in the beautiful Chatzismith house.

AGIA PARASKEVI CHURCH

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Tel: (06) 26 18 59

One of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island, dating to the 9th century. It is a basilica surmounted by five domes forming a cross and has beautiful mural paintings dating from the 9th to the 15th centuries.

SANCTUARY OF APHRODITE

Kouklia village, 14 km east of Pafos, off the Lemesos - Pafos road, Tel: (06) 43 21 80

Palaipafos, Old Pafos, was one of the most celebrated pilgrimage centres of the ancient Greek world, and once city-kingdom of Cyprus. Here stood the famous Sanctuary of Aphrodite, the most ancient remains of which date back to the 12th century BC. The glorious days of the sanctuary lasted till the 3rd-4th century. The museum, housed in the Lusignan Manor, contains many interesting finds from the area, and excavations continue on the site of the sanctuary, the city and the necropolis.



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PETRA TOY ROMIOU-BIRTHPLACE OF APHRODITE

25 km east of Pafos.

According to legend, Aphrodite goddess of love and beauty, rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Greek name, Petra tou Romiou 'The Rock of the Greek' is associated with the legendary frontier-guard of Byzantine times Digenis Akritas, who kept the marauding Saracens at bay with amazing strength. It is said that he heaved this large rock into the sea destroying the enemy's ship.



PANAGIA CHRYSOLEOUSA CHURCH

Polemi village

A complex of two churches. The oldest is the northern one which is a domed cross-in-square type building possibly of the 12th century. Later in the 18th century a barrel-vaulted church was added to the south. Excellent 16th century icons survive on the iconostasis.

METOCHI MONIS KYKKOU

Polemi village

An interesting group of buildings of traditional architecture, known as "Metochi tou Kykkou", can be found in the north-western part of the village. Today it is used as a Cultural Centre for the local community.

PEGEIA

Agios Georgios Basilica and the fountains of Pegeia.

Pegeia village, 19 km northwest of Pafos.

Near a fishing refuge 4,5 km from the village of Pegeia are the ruins of two Early Christian basilicas with some very interesting mosaic floors depicting animals. This site must have been an important establishment in Early Christian times. There are also rock-hewn tombs of the Roman period above the sea. Pegeia is famous for its fountains in the stone paved village square.



90



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MAA - PALAIOKASTRO

Coral Bay - 9 km from Pafos

This is an area which accommodated the first ancient (Mycenaean) Greeks, who emigrated to Cyprus at around 1200 BC after the fall of the Mycenaean Kingdoms in mainland Greece. This is a very important site for Cyprus because this is where Hellenism on the island originated.

The little museum with its unusual architecture is the work of Andrea Bruno, Professor at the University of Turin and one of Europe's greatest architects. The Museum depicts the colonisation of Cyprus by the Mycenaean Greeks.

AGIOS NEOFYTOS MONASTERY

9 km north of Pafos.

Founded at the end of the 12th century by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neofytos. The "Egkleistra", an enclosure carved out of the mountain by the hermit, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th to 15th century. In the monastery church which contains some of the most beautiful icons of the Post-Byzantine period of the 16th century is a very interesting ecclesiastical museum.

LEMPA

5 km from Pafos

At Lempa village excavations have brought to light an important settlement of the Chalcolithic period. Near the site replicas of two houses from this period have been constructed.

CHRYSORROGIATISSA MONASTERY

40 km northeast of Pafos, turn right before Stroumpi village. The monastery is also reached from Kykkos Monastery via the forest.

Set in beautiful surroundings, the monastery, originally founded in the 12th century AD, is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate'. The monastery, whose present building dates back to 1770, has a collection of important icons and treasures. An impressive religious ceremony and celebrations are held on 15th August. The old winery of the monastery produces some of the best vintage wine of Cyprus.



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AGIOS KIRYKOS AND AGIA IOULITTI CHURCH

Letymvou village

A cross-in-square domed church that can be dated to the 12th century, with many newer additions, especially in the 15th century. It has a few surviving wall paintings dating to the 12th century, but most date to the 15th century.

CHURCH OF PANAGIA CHRYSOLEOUSA

Empa village, 3 km north of Pafos.

This is a combination of two churches. The eastern section was first built in the 12th century, possibly on the ruins of an early Christian basilica, as a cruciform church with a dome. Later in the 13th century an extension was made to the west with a domed building of the cross-in-square type. It retains valuable wall paintings of the 12th, 13th, 15th and 16th centuries.

PANAGIA TOU SINTI MONASTERY

Pentalia

An abandoned monastery on the banks of the Xeros River. The central nave of the monastery, dating to the 16th century, is in good condition and is considered one of the most important buildings of the Venetian period. In 1997 it received the Europa Nostra award for the restoration and conservation work carried out on it.

PANO PANAGIA

On the west of Troodos 1,5 km from Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery.

The birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus. The house where he was born has been converted into a museum.



95



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LAONA REGION

Near the town of Poli Chrysochous and the Akamas area at about 600 m above sea level, lie the villages of Laona, e.g. Ineia, Drouseia, Kathikas, with a panoramic view across the area. In Ineia you can visit the Museum of Basket-weaving, (Tel: (06) 33 25 62). The Laona/Akamas Information Centre can be found in a renovated school in the centre of Kathikas. A Museum of Weaving will shortly operate in Drouseia.



98

POLIS CHRYSOCHOUS

37 km north of Pafos

Polis tis Chrysochous lies where there once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion, an important commercial centre in the Classical and Hellenistic times. The new local Museum of Polis, Marion/Arsinoe, (Tel: (06) 32 29 55) houses an interesting collection of antiquities found in the region. Of interest in the centre of the town is the barrel-vaulted church of Agios Andronikos which dates to the 16th century. This was turned into a mosque during the Turkish period, when the northern part was added to it and the wall paintings were covered by an asbestos wash. Recently all the wall paintings, dating to the 16th century, have been uncovered. Next to this church lies the 18th century church of Agia Kyriaki.

Beautiful beaches can be found in the surrounding region, picturesque villages as well as interesting churches, such as the churches of Agia Aikaterini (16th century) and Panagia Chorteni (15th century). The area has become an attractive popular resort.



99

BATHS OF APHRODITE

Akamas Peninsula, near Polis. 48 km north of Pafos.

According to legend, the goddess Aphrodite used to take her beauty baths in a pool of a natural grotto, shaded by a fig tree, which can still be visited.

Nature trails set off from Akamas to lead nature lovers to incomparable views of unspoilt land.

More details on these trails can be obtained from a special leaflet issued by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation in co-operation with the Forestry Department.



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100

Ammochostos Area (Famagousta)

PARALIMNI - AGIA NAPA

The golden sandy beaches of the free (non-occupied) Ammochostos district gently embrace the eastern corner of the island. The popular holiday resorts of Agia Napa and Paralimni have been called a veritable paradise for anyone who loves the sea and water sports. The charming scenery includes the tiny fishing harbour of Agia Napa, the mediaeval monastery at the heart of the village and the windmills and small churches in the surrounding villages which spread out to the areas of Paralimni and Protaras. This region is the main potato producing area on the island, and is known as 'Kokkinochoria' which means 'red soil villages'. The villages of this area are equally known for their folk poets, who are regarded as the best on the island.

Places of Interest

PARALIMNI

Since the Turkish military occupation of Ammochostos in 1974, this small town has become the temporary administrative centre of the district. The twin aisled vaulted church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panagia), is decorated with unusual 18th century porcelain plates. The church, parts of which belong to the 13th century, houses a small ecclesiastical Museum. Other interesting churches are also to be found in the area.

AGIA NAPA

Originally a fishing village it is now a major tourist resort. The charming mediaeval monastery dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Forests' stands in the middle of the village surrounded by a high wall. Its 16th century church is partly underground and cut into the rock. The hostel west of the church, belongs to the World Council of Churches. The ancient sycamore tree in front of the south gate is believed to be over 600 years old. The Marine Life Museum can be found within the premises of the Agia Napa Municipality.



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DERYNEIA

The village has three interesting churches; the small domed 17th century church of Agios Georgios, the 15th century Agia Marina church, and a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with excellent 17th century icons. From this village one may gaze on the 'ghost city' of Ammochostos, now under occupation by the Turkish forces. Once the most popular holiday resort in Cyprus, Ammochostos lies desolate since 1974 as all its inhabitants are now refugees.

SOTIRA

There are five Byzantine Churches of considerable importance as regards their architectural style and the beauty of the masonry.

The church of Agios Mamas lies at the eastern entrance to the village. It dates back to the early 16th century, as do most of its surviving wall paintings. About one kilometre to the west is the cruciform church of Panagia Chordakiotissa, the church of Agios Georgios Chortakion and the church of Agios Theodoros (only the narthex survives). In the centre of the village lies the church of the Metamorphosis tou Sotiros (13th -16th centuries), which displays excellent examples of post-Komninian art (early 13th century). In the centre of the village is a small ecclesiastical museum. Tel: (03) 92 39 32

LIOPETRI

Here is a 16th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the 15th century church of Agios Andronikos, with an octagonal dome and murals which can still be distinguished in the apse. Liopetri still carries on the traditional craft of basket-making.

FRENAROS

The village of Frenaros has its own small Byzantine churches. Two of them, the Agios Andronikos and the Archangelos Michail date back to the 12th century. The church of Agia Marina has some interesting frescoes painted by different artists.

POTAMOS LIOPETRIOU

A picturesque fishing refuge. Nearby are the remains of a Venetian watch-tower. The French poet Arthur Rimbaud worked in this area in the 1880's.



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T r o o d o s

Troodos

Nine Byzantine churches in the Troodos mountains are included in the official UNESCO list of the World Heritage. These are: Stavros tou Agiasmati, Panagia tou Araka, Timiou Stavrou at Pelendri, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, Panagia Podithou, Panagia tis Asinou, Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, Panagia tou Moutoulla and Archangelos Michail at Pedoulas.

The impressive Troodos mountain range with its idyllic forests stretches across most of the western side of Cyprus offering cool sanctuary in summer and opportunities for sports in winter. Famous mountain resorts divine Byzantine monasteries and churches perched on mountain peaks or nestling in its valleys, as well as picturesque mountain villages clinging to terraced hill slopes make up the splendour of Troodos.

The area has been known since ancient times for its mines and in the Byzantine Period it became a prominent centre of Byzantine art, as churches and monasteries were built in the mountains, far away from the threatened coastline. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation in co-operation with the Forestry Department has issued a leaflet on the Nature Trails of the Troodos mountain range. Four main areas, each having its own character and charm are found on the Troodos mountain range. These are: 1. Pitsylia to the east of Mount Olympos, 2. Solea, 3. Marathasa Valley to the north of Mount Olympos and 4. Krasochoria (the "wine villages" to the south (northwest of the Lemesos district). These areas are easily accesible from either Lemesos or Lefkosia. The actual Troodos area is found around Mount Olympos (height 1.951 metres).

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Places of Interest

PITSYLIA

The Pitsylia area lies on the eastern slopes of the Troodos mountain range. Picturesque villages cling to the mountainside amid vineyards, orchards of almond and hazelnut trees and an astonishing array of wild flowers. The Pitsylia area can be reached either from Lemesos or Lefkosia. From Lemesos one takes the Lemesos - Agios Theodoros - Agros road, or Lemesos - Kato Amiantos - Karvounas - Kyperounta road. From Lefkosia one passes through Palaichori - Agros, or through Kakopetria - Karvounas - Kyperounta.

LOUVARAS

28 km north of Lemesos on the south of the Troodos range, off the Lemesos - Agros road.
In the centre of the village is the small church of Agios Mamas built in 1455 with mural paintings signed by Philip Goul.

AGROS

45 km north of Lemesos through Agios Theodoros.

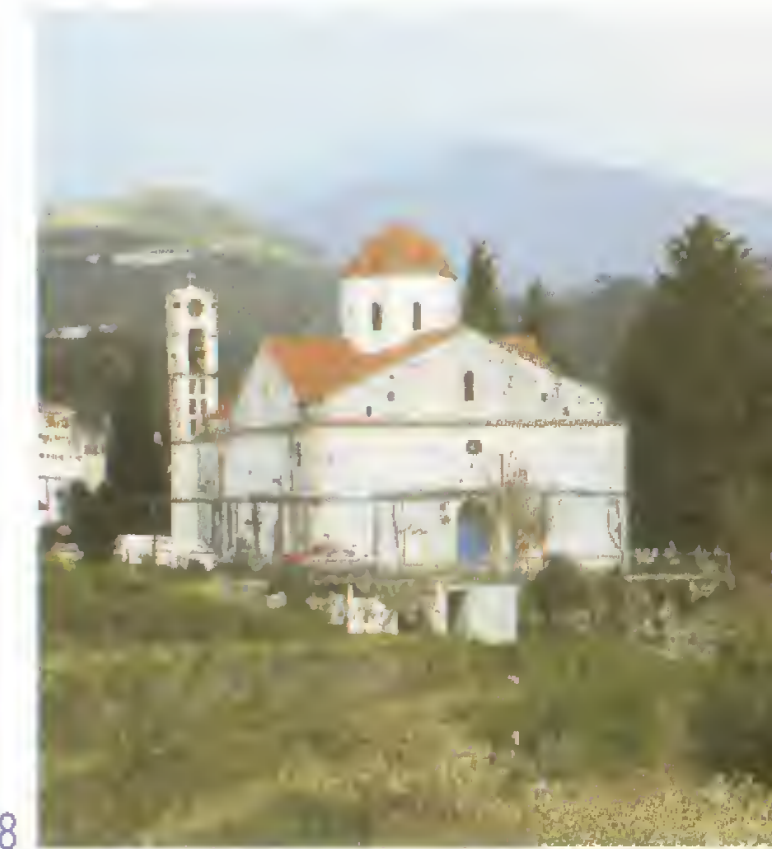
Agros is the centre of the district. A 19th century church now stands on the site of the monastery of Panagia Eleousa, founded by monks from Constantinople in the 9th century.

PALAICHORI

45 km south of Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Agros - Lemesos road, and 15 km from Agros.

The church of "Metamorfosis tou Sotiros", the Transfiguration of the Saviour, is an early 16th century chapel on the hill, overlooking the beautiful old village. Its interior is completely painted with one of the most accomplished series of murals of the post-Byzantine period in Cyprus. The church of Panagia Chrysopantanassa built in the 16th century contains wall paintings. It is the main church of the upper village.

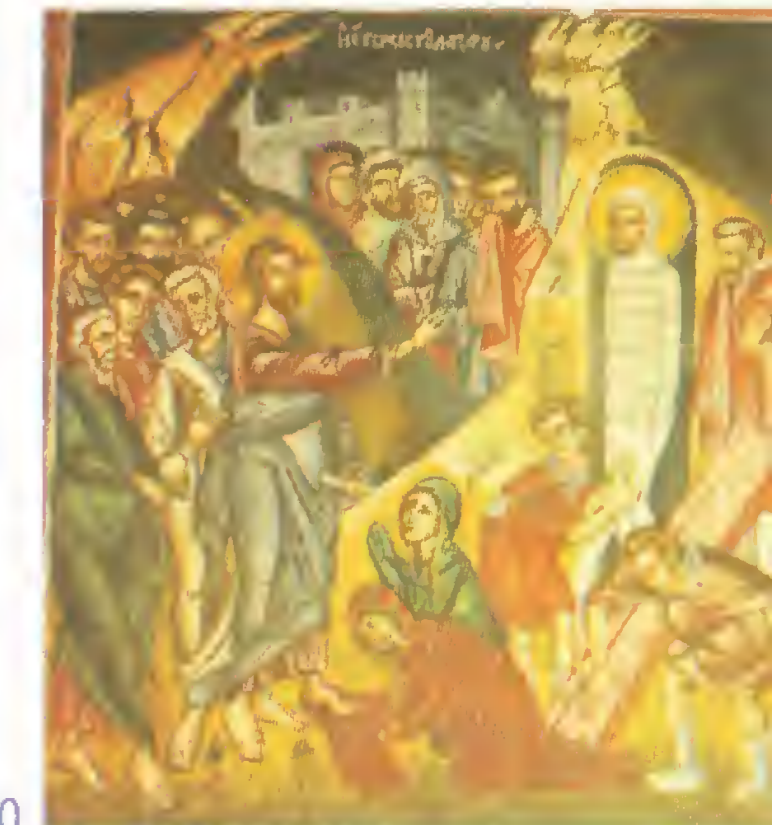
Palaichori has an Ecclesiastic Museum which houses icons and other consecrated vessels from various churches of the village, as well as a Struggle Museum in a house which once served as a hideout for heroes of the EOKA Independence Struggle (1955-59). The impressive monument of the "Cypriot Mother" dominates the entire area.



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PLATANISTASA

Stavros tou Agiasmati

Platanistasa village, 15 km from Agros, 30 km off the Lefkosia - Astromeritis road, turning left before Peristerona village.

A 15th century church, lying about 3 km outside this charming old village, retains the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th century in Cyprus. Visitors can ask for the key from the village priest.

LAGOUDERA

Panagia tou Araka

Lagoudera village is 15 km from Agros or off the Kakopetria - Troodos - Lemesos road (Karvounas crossroad).

The 12th century church situated just outside the village has frescoes which are some of the finest of the late Comnenian style (c1192) prevailing throughout Greece, the Balkans and Russia. Together with Asinou church and that of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, it is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches on the island. Visitors can ask for the key and be escorted by the priest who is to be found in the premises next to the church.



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KOURDALI

Church of Panagia Chrysokourdaliotissa

A three-aisled church with a steep pitched roof and flat roof tiles. It was built in the 16th century as a monastery church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and founded by deacon Ioannis Kourdalis, according to the inscription. The wall paintings are of the same period, and some have western influences. The iconostasis is a beautiful example of wood sculpture of the 16th -17th centuries.

SPILIA

Eliomylos (Olive press)

A one-room stone building with a pitched roof. The 19th century wooden installation of the press as well as the stone-olive mill together with the millstones are all very well preserved. Various objects and tools used for the production of oil are on display. The Olive Press was repaired in 1995 by the Department of Antiquities. Visitors should ask for the key from the Association of Overseas Cypriots and Friends of Spilia-Kourdalon in a building nearby.



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PELENDRI

Timiou Stavrou

3 km below Kato Amiantos, off the Karvouna - Lemesos road, 32 km from Lemesos. Once the property of Jean de Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches; the 14th century church of Timiou Stavrou, the Holy Cross, with beautiful wall paintings and the church of Panagia Katholiki in the centre of the village which dates to the early 16th century with paintings in the Italo-Byzantine style.

KYPEROUNTA

The Church of the Holy Cross houses the Ecclesiastic Museum which contains icons and religious artefacts belonging to the village churches, (Tel: (05) 53 22 52) to arrange a visit). It also has a garden with traditional plants and herbs.

SOLEA VALLEY

On the main Lefkosia - Troodos road 56 km from Lefkosia and 56 km from Lemesos (via Kato Amiantos and Saïttas).

The Solea valley is famous for its apples, its Byzantine churches and its picturesque villages. Kakopetria and Galata villages, preserving much of their traditional folk architectural character, are popular hill resorts. Other charming villages in the valley are Evrychou, Flasou and Korakou.

KAKOPETRIA

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis

The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, 'Saint Nicholas of the Roof', stands about 5 km to the north of the village and once belonged to a monastery. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th to the 17th century and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. The church took its name from the steep pitched wooden roof which was built to protect it from climatological conditions. The small 16th century church of Panagia Theotokos, off the main road, has retained about half of its murals. The church of Agios Georgios Perachoritis, on the east of the village, has some very original wall paintings belonging to the first quarter of the 16th century. The old quarter of the village has been declared a protected area and traditional houses have been restored.



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GALATA

Panagia Podithou

There are four painted churches in and around the village. The church of Agios Sozomenos dates to the early 16th century and retains a complete series of frescoes in the post-Byzantine style. The church of Archangelos Michail or Panagia Theotokos is a timber-roofed chapel just below the village and is completely painted in the post-Byzantine style of the early 16th century. Nearby is the larger church of Panagia Podithou which once belonged to a monastery. It was erected in 1502 and its paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style. The small church of Agia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata road has murals dating to 1514. The old inn which has been restored, the 'Chani Kalianon', is an interesting example of rural architecture.



NIKITARI

Asinou Church

5 km from Nikitari village, off the main Lefkosia - Troodos road, around 20 km north of Kakopetria.

An early 12th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with frescoes of the 12th century and later periods, considered to be among the finest examples of Byzantine mural painting in the island. Visitors should ask for the priest of Nikitari village to escort them.

MARATHASA VALLEY

This fertile valley, well known for its cherries, lies on the north side of the Troodos range. It offers an alternative route to Troodos through the lovely mountain villages of Kalopanagiotis, Moutoullas, Pedoulas and Prodromos. The road to Kykkos Monastery is signposted and turns off the main Lefkosia - Troodos road just below Evrychou. Marathasa is also reached from the Lemesos - Platres - Prodromos road (around 65 km from Lemesos).



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KALOPANAGIOTIS

Agios Ioannis Lampadistis

The village is famous for its sulphur springs and the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, with excellent frescoes of the 13th and 15th century. Originally a monastery, it is a complex of two churches and a chapel of various dates. One of the biggest religious fairs in the valley is held here on St. John's day, 4th October.

MOUTOULLAS

Panagia tou Moutoulla

Less than a kilometre further up is Moutoullas village with its tiny 13th century chapel of Panagia tou Moutoulla, one of the earliest dated examples of the steep-pitched wooden-roof type with frescoes dating to 1280. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house. The traditional craft of wooden carved basins has been preserved in Moutoullas.

PEDOULAS

Archangelos Michail

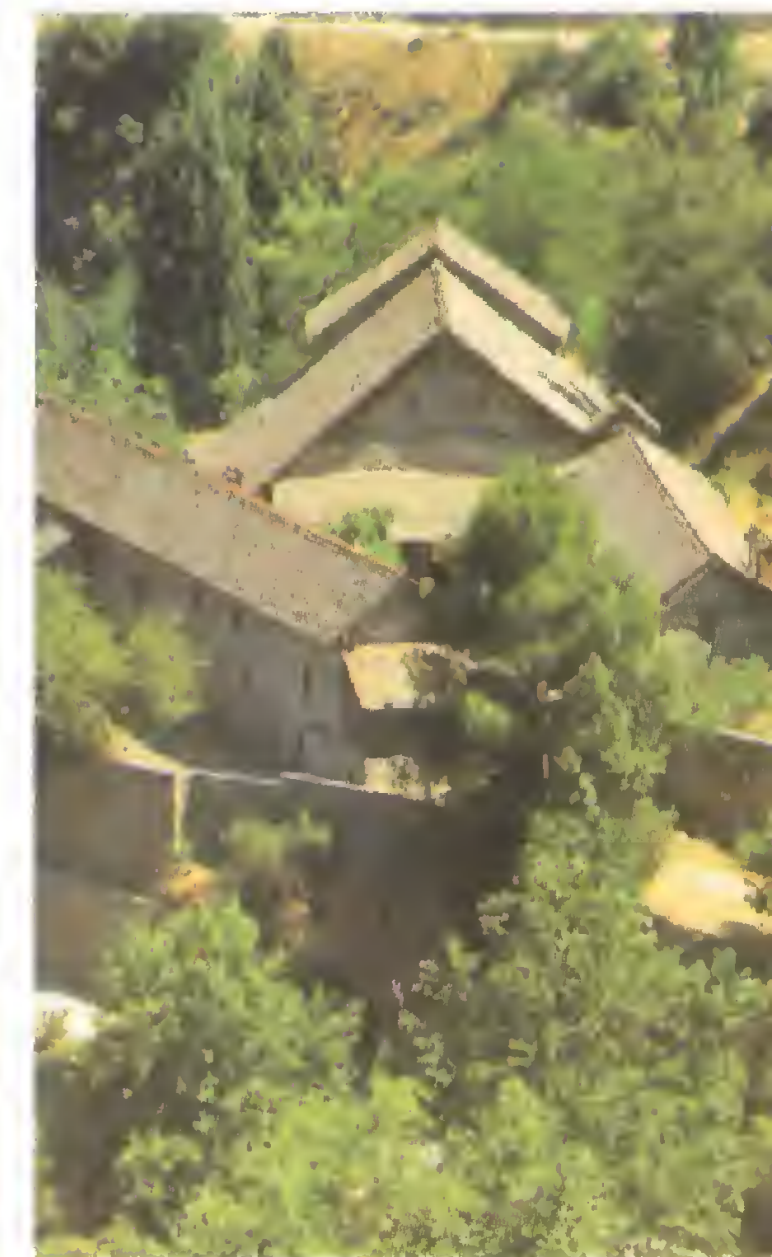
The third village up the mountain is Pedoulas, a summer resort famous for its cherries. The painted church or Archangelos Michail in the lower part of the village dates from 1474. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house. A few metres from the church is the Pedoulas Byzantine Museum.

THREE OLD MONASTERIES

KYKKOS MONASTERY

20 km west of Pedoulas village.

The most famous and richest monastery in Cyprus. Founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it possesses one of the three surviving icons ascribed to Saint Luke. The icon, covered in silver gilt and enclosed in a shrine of tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl, stands at the front of the iconostasis. The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III served here as a novice. At his own wish he was buried at Throni, 3 km west of the Monastery, and not far from his native village of Panagia. Religious fairs are held at Kykkos on 15th August



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and 8th September.

The Museum of Kykkos houses an important collection of consecrated vessels and Cypriot antiquities.

TROODITISSA MONASTERY

5 km northwest of Platres, 40 km from Lemesos, on the Platres-Prodromos road.

This beautiful monastery was originally founded in the 13th century. The present church dating from 1731 contains many valuable icons including a priceless icon of the Virgin Mary plated with silver-gilt from Asia Minor. A large religious fair is held in the grounds on 15th August. The monastery is closed for visits.

MESA POTAMOS MONASTERY

Deserted monastery near Platres in an idyllic setting, with a nearby waterfall.



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KRASOCHORIA

The area of Krasochoria, meaning 'wine villages', is found on the south side of the Troodos range. Traditions are kept alive in these villages where the cultivation of the vineyards and wine making are still the main occupation of the inhabitants. This is the area which produces the famous local dry red wine. Main villages in the area are Omodos, Arsos, Pachna, Koilani and Vasa. The area is reached from the Lemesos - Pafos road, turning right after Erimi village or from the Lemesos - Platres road.

Important villages of the region include Omodos, Vouni, Pachna and Arsos, which has an interesting little Folk Art Museum.

(Tel: (05) 24 32 23 / 24 33 47).

OMODOS

11 km southwest of Platres.

A wine producing village, once the property of Sir John De Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros, 'Holy Cross', standing by the stone-paved square. The monastery contains old icons, excellent wood carving and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small National Struggle Museum. A traditional wine press known as 'linos', has been restored in an old house. A festival is held in the village every August, and there is a large religious fair on the 14th of September.



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FOINI

4 km west of Platres

Famous for its pottery and its loukoumi sweet. Visitors can see the Pilavakeion private pottery collection.

KOILANI

1,5 km southwest of Pera Pedi, off the Lemesos - Troodos road.

An attractive wine producing village. Two kilometres from the village is the single aisled vaulted church of Agia Mavri, typical of 12th century architecture with murals of the late 15th century. The village has a local Ecclesiastical and Viticultural museum.



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NOTES

1. All museums and archaeological sites remain closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday (Greek Orthodox).
2. During the remaining public holidays the major archaeological sites i.e. Kolossi Castle, Kourion site, the Sanctuary of Apollon Ylatis, Tombs of the Kings, Mosaics in Kato Pafos, Choirokoitia, Amathous and Hala Sultan Tekesi remain open from 09:00 to 17:00 hrs (summer: 09:00-19:30hrs). The Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia remains open from 10:00 to 13:00hrs.
3. Only few of the churches mentioned can be reached by public transport, since most of them stand away from main roads and are only accessible by private car. Due to the eminent importance of the icons and frescoes, many of the churches and monasteries are kept locked. Visitors can always ask to be escorted by the village priest, or any other responsible person who can usually be found in the coffee shops of the villages.
4. All distances given are approximations.
5. Every effort has been made by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of going to press. However, it is advisable to confirm details such as visiting hours, addresses and telephone numbers in the possibility that changes could have occurred after printing.

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